



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Michael E. Mauney, do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Response to Office Action in:

In Re Application: Tianqing He et al.

Serial Number: 10/714,471

For: DEVICE AND METHODS FOR RAPID DRYING OF POROUS MATERIALS

Filed: 11/15/03

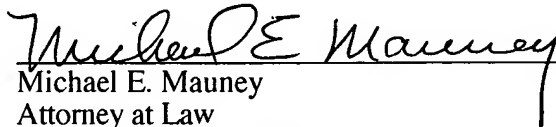
has this day been duly served upon:

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Said service was made in the following manner:

- () By handing such copy to the aforementioned attorney, or by leaving said copy at the above mentioned attorney's office with a partner or employee of his office.
- (x) By depositing a copy of the aforementioned document(s) enclosed in a prepaid first class addressed envelope in the U. S. Mail.

This the 22 day of March, 2005.



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application: Tianqing He et al.

Filing Date: 11/15/03

Examiner: Jiping Lu

Serial No: 10/714,471

Art Unit: 3749

Invention: DEVICE AND METHODS FOR RAPID DRYING OF POROUS MATERIALS

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is written in response to an Office Action with a mailing date of January 12, 2005.

Restriction Requirement

Claims 11-20, 22 and 35-43 are withdrawn.

The Examiner requested in the Response to the Applicant's traversal that the Applicant admit on the record that locations of the heater and temperature sensor are obvious variants. As was explained in the current application, samples contained within the chamber may be heated directly by the use of electromagnetic energy, preferably infrared energy, or air may be heated, which is permitted to enter the chamber during a portion of the drying process. As was explained in the application, when heated air is permitted to enter the chamber, the cold trap must then be bypassed. If heated air is used to heat the chamber, then the same degree of constant high vacuum cannot be maintained in the chamber. For these reasons, the Applicant cannot admit on the record that the location of the heater inside and outside the sealed chamber are obvious variants.

The Examiner stated that Claim 22 should be withdrawn from consideration. It is not readable on the elected species. Applicant concurs with this conclusion of the Examiner and, as is shown as follows, asks that Claim 22 be withdrawn.